THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF FARNHAM

Annual Report of M.O.H.

Please circulate as quickly as possible

(1) Miss Newham (for Dr. Hutchinson)

(2) Dr. Norman-Smith

(3) Dr. Lethem

(4) Library-To retain

Form 26 C/Reg.

ANNUAL REPORT

For The Year Ended

31st December, 1942

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF FARNHAM

ANNUAL REPORT

For The Year Ended

31st December, 1942

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF FARNHAM

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr. F. Rawlinson (Chairman)
Mr. C. Binfield
Mr. C. E. Clark
Mr. J. Ewart
Mr. W. Jordan
Mr. F. Lawson
Mr. H. Rothwell
Mr. H. Sanders
Mr. L. W. Stevens
Mrs. G. A. Stroud
Mr. H. G. Hale
(Chairman of the Council)
Mr. J. Chuter
(Vice-Chairman of the Council)

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:
F. Bedo Hobbs, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H., (Part-time)

Chief Sanitary Inspector:
R. M. Sargent, M.R.San.I., M.Inst.R.Arch.,
Special Cert. Meat and Other Foods

Assistant Sanitary Inspector:
Wm. Chalcraft, C.R.S.I., C.M.F.I.,

General Assistant:
H. R. Cox.

Clerk:
S. J. Collett.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year Ending 31st December, 1942

Brightwell House,
East Street,
Farnham.

August, 1943.

To The Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Farnham.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I submit herewith my Annual Report for the year 1942 upon the health and sanitary circumstances of Farnham.

In compliance with the directions of the Ministry in Circular 2604, on grounds of National security no figures have been given which would enable any substantial series of local populations to be constructed, and no reference has been made to war-time industrial developments or to extension of water supply and sewerage, etc.

In the interests of paper economy, the report has also been abbreviated as much as possible and has been stencilled instead of printed.

There has been no serious epidemic, apart from a moderate number of cases of measles and whooping cough, and the health of the district has been surprisingly good. We have been particularly free from such war-time diseases as cerebro spinal fever and scabies.

A good deal of attention has been devoted to food inspection with, I think, satisfactory results.

No comment is made on the vital statistics, except to draw attention to the large rise in birth rate, combined with a slight fall in the death rate.

I welcome this opportunity of thanking my staff for their continued co-operation throughout the year.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

F. BEDO HOBBS,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

There has been no change in the area of the Urban District of Farnham and the number of inhabited houses shows no change since 1941.

Owing to the return of a number of evacuees, the resident population is not so high as in 1940 and 1941 but is still above pre-war level.

There are a few cases of overcrowding, but not to any serious extent.

VITAL STATISTICS

The birth rate for 1942 was 17.89 per 1,000. This is the highest figure since 1925. Since that year it has been 13 or 14 per 1,000 so that this year shows a very considerable rise.

In contrast, the death rate is 11.6 per 1,000 which is distincly lower than usual and is surprising when one considers that owing to the movement of the younger members of the population into the Forces there is a larger proportion of elderly people in the district which is not entirely offset by the influx of evacuee children.

The death rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births is 23.7 which is very satisfactory.

In accordance with instructions given in Circular 2604, no quotations from the figures supplied by the Registrar General which would give information of local populations are given in this report.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

There are no substantital changes in the laboratory facilities, ambulance and blood transfusion services, nor in the arrangements for nursing in the home.

The Clinics and Treatment Centres remain the same as in 1941.

THE CURATIVE POST

The work of this treatment centre is growing steadily each year. In 1942 it was found necessary to have extra assistance to cope with the increasing number of treatments. Modern apparatus is being added from time to time.

HOSPITALS

FARNHAM COUNTY HOSPITAL

This hospital is becoming increasingly popular and serves a large area of South West Surrey. It is efficiently equipped and has been generally fully occupied, especially on the female side. It is an official E.M.S. hospital with a special orthopaedic department, and recently has been recognised as a full training school for nurses.

TRIMMERS COTTAGE HOSPITAL

This hospital has not been so fully occupied as usual as owing to lack of staff the childrens ward and three private wards have had to be closed. 83 operations for removal of tonsils and adenoids have been carried out on behalf of the Surrey Education Committee.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL

The recent increase in area served by the hospital has given more work and the cubicle block has been generally well occupied. There has been an increasing tendency to admit severe or complicated cases of measles and for mild scarlet fever cases to be nursed at home.

HOSTELS FOR EVACUEE CHILDREN

Woodlands Hostel has continued to serve a very useful purpose in acting as a temporary residence for evacuee children and for certain others for whom it has been impossible to find suitable billets.

Guildford R.D.C. have continued to be extremely co-operative in accepting sick evacuee children in their Sick Bays.

Black Lake Home with accommodation for 22 and Al Aman with 28 beds for children under 5 have been fully occupied.

During the year a hostel of 22 beds was opened at Merlewood under the supervision of the Waifs and Strays Society and another of 29 beds at Willey Park under the care of the B.R.C.S.

Towards the end of the year a Day Nursery was opened in the building in East Street formerly used as Trimmers Cottage Hospital. This is proving very useful to working mothers.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

Samples from the two sources of water supply for the district have been taken regularly at monthly intervals and have been found on analysis to be perfectly satisfactory.

Further samples of well water suitable for emergency use have also been examined bacteriologically and suitable wells have been clearly marked.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Sanitary Inspector's Report for 1942

In accordance with Article 19 of the Sanitary Officer's Order, 1926, the following classified table is submitted of (a) the number and nature of inspections made during the year; (b) the number of notices served during the year; (c) the result of the services of such notices :-

(a) Number and nature of inspections made during the year :-

Dwellinghouses

Number inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts	582
Number of inspections made, including re-inspections and visits to works in progress	1065

Other Premises (Inspections and Re-inspections)

1.	Slaughterhouses	0
2.	Meat and Other Food Shops	1739
3.	Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops ...	301
4.	Bakehouses	117
5.	Factories	236
6.	Shops	262
7.	Offices	0
8.	Camping Sites	29
9.	Mushroom Farms	15
10.	Visits re Cases of Infectious Disease	47
11.	Visits re Miscellaneous Complaints ...	396
12.	Visits re Complaints under Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919 ...	47
13.	Visits re Disinfestation of Premises	23

(b) Notices Served :-

Number of preliminary notices served under the Public Health, Housing and Other Acts	84

(c) Result of Notices :-

1. Preliminary Notices -

(a) Complied with in 1942	79
(b) Work not commenced	4
	83

2. Statutory Notices -

(a) Complied with in 1942	1
(b) Work not commenced	0

Tables showing nature of defects or nuisances discovered and remedied, as required by the Ministry of Health :-

1.	Defective cottages repaired	17
2.	New drains provided to dwellings	0
3.	Defective drains and cesspools made sound or cleared	28
4.	Defective rooms cleansed and renovated ...	47
5.	Defective roofs repaired	11
6.	Defective gutters or downpipes repaired or replaced	5
7.	New sanitary accommodation provided	3
8.	Smoke nuisances abated	2
9.	Lavatories converted to water carriage system from conservancy system	0
10.	Earth closets cleansed or repaired	1
11.	Back yards paved and repaired	0
12.	Conditions of mushroom farms improved	1
13.	Rivers and streams nuisances abated	1
14.	Portable dustbins provided	10
15.	Accumulations of refuse or manure removed ...	3
16.	Pigstyes, fowlhouses, etc., cleansed	3
17.	Premises connected to main water supply ...	2
18.	Premises cleansed under Factories Act	1
19.	Dairies, cowsheds and milkshops cleansed, repaired or reconstructed	12
20.	Dampness in cottages remedied	9
21.	Damp and defective floors repaired or relaid	3
22.	Rooms disinfected following infectious disease	37
23.	Cesspools abolished	1
24.	Houses generally repaired	3
25.	Rooms disinfested	11
26.	Premises cleansed and repaired under Shops Acts	4

Number of legal actions taken -

Under Public Health Acts	0
Under Infectious Disease (Notifications) Act, 1875	0
Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924 ...	0

SHOPS

The general condition of the shops in the district is satisfactory and during the year matters affecting the health of workers have received attention, with special consideration to the provision of sufficient sanitary and washing facilities.

During the year 262 inspections were made under the Shops Act, 1934, all preliminary notices served following these inspections being complied with.

SWIMMING BATHS

The Public Baths in South Street continued to increase in popularity during the year, especially amongst school children. Regular samples obtained showed that the Purification Plant worked satisfactorily.

Small Pools attached to Edgeborough School and Frensham Heights were also inspected and samples obtained for analysis proved satisfactory in every way.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

In one case only was it necessary to instruct the London Fumigation Company to carry out the disinfestation of a pair of semi-detached Council cottages. A few other minor private cases were reported and dealt with by spraying with "Zaldecide" and no further complaints were made.

It was suggested that some form of examination of tenants' furniture should be made before occupation of or transfer to another Council cottage to ensure complete absence of bugs. As far as possible, this is done but so few cases occur that this course hardly appears necessary.

SCHOOLS

The schools of the district are, with two exceptions, well constructed and equipped with modern sanitation. The two exceptions are the Wrecclesham Senior Church School which still retains earth closet sanitation for both girls and boys, whilst the Church of England Girls School in the Town itself still has the Trough system of lavatories.

HOUSING

Despite the difficulty of getting repairs attended to owing to the acute shortage of labour and material, regular house to house inspection work was continued throughout the year and 582 dwellings were visited. Where essential repair work was found to be necessary informal notices were served and in every case the required works were completed.

The few cases of overcrowding found during inspections were referred to the Council's Housing & Estates Committee for consideration should a vacancy occur in a Council cottage.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS

MILK SUPPLY

Frequent inspections were made during the year of all cowsheds, dairies and milk shops.

Samples were taken for bacteriological examination, and although those of the "Pasteurised" Milk were generally satisfactory the samples of ordinary milk were not generally as good as usual. I think this is largely attributable to casual and unskilled labour at the farms and dairies.

The new High Temperature Short Time Pasteurisation Plant recently installed at the Farnham Dairy continued to give satisfactory results.

The following summary shows the results of samples taken during the year :-

Designation	Taken	Satisfactory	Not in all respects	Unsatis-factory
Pasteurised	10	9	1	0
Accredited	29	19	3	7
Ordinary	31	13	7	11
Totals	70	41	11	18

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

As in the two preceding years, the licenses of the eight slaughterhouses in the district were not renewed during 1942, the meat supply to this area still being distributed from the Depot at Aldershot where the Central Slaughterhouse is situated.

Regular inspections of the food shops in the area have been carried out throughout the year, particular attention being paid to refrigerators, iceboxes and the conveyances used for the transport of foodstuffs.

The following foodstuffs have been condemned as being unfit for human consumption :-

Commodity	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Pork			9
Mutton			15
Beef (Home Killed)			18½
Beef (Imported)			15¾
		2	2¼
Luncheon Meat	3	3	12¾
Tongue			20
Corned Beef	1	0	21
Peas	1	2	12
Beans	1	0	10
Chopped Ham	2	3	3¾
Bacon		3	13
Fish	3	1	10
Cheese		3	17½
Liver			2½
Fruit	1	0	27
Jam and Marmalade			27
Sausage Meat		3	3
Vegetables		2	7
Turkey			3
Meat & Vegetable			11
Stewed Steak			15
Dried Egg			1
Lentils	1	0	0
Flour			3
Chocolate			9
Tapioca			11½
Coffee	2	0	8½
Kelloggs All Bran			3
	22	0	27½
	22	3	1¾

348 tins Milk
16 tins Soup
3 jars Paste
7 jars Syrup
59 dozen Eggs
4½ dozen Sausage Rolls

ADULTERATION

The Surrey County Council is the responsible Authority for the administration of the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.

The following is a summary of the results of samples taken during 1942 :-

Articles	Analysed			Adulterated or Deteriorated			Prosecutions	Convictions
	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total		
Milk	33	2	35	2	0	2	0	0
Confectionery and Jam	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	34	3	37	2	0	2	0	0

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The health of the district has been surprisingly good throughout the year, and apart from a few cases of measles and jaundice there has been no epidemic.

There were only three cases of cerebro spinal fever, which is often unduly prevalent under war conditions, and only one case of poliomyelitis.

There was an increased number of cases of scabies, and arrangements were made by which these could be treated at one of the First Aid Posts. This is staffed by volunteers and the arrangement has proved very satisfactory. It has not been found necessary to take any action under the Scabies Order, 1941.

Arrangements were made in conjunction with other local authorities for dealing with cases of typhus, should this disease occur in the district, and special clothing has been obtained for the use of a typhus team who would deal with such cases.

The campaign for diphtheria immunisation has been vigorously continued throughout the year by means of posters, films, articles in the local Press, shop window display and circularising doctors, school teachers, etc. As a result, approximately 65% of the children under 5 and 85% of the children from 5 to 15 years of age have now been immunised.

Although it would be unwise to stress the point too much at this stage, it is satisfactory to note that during the year there were only four cases of diphtheria, and these all occurred in adults who had not been immunised. There was no case of diphtheria in a child during the year.

The following table gives particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the district during 1942 :-

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 - 5	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
5 - 15	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
15 - 25	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
25 - 35	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 - 45	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
45 - 55	4	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
55 - 65	4	2	1	0	0	1	1	0
65 and over	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
Totals	17	5	4	5	3	3	1	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1942

The following is a list of notifiable diseases classified in age groups reported during 1942 :-

Infectious Disease.	At all ages	Under 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 & over	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	56	0	1	3	4	8	22	10	3	3	2	0	0	31	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	2	0	0	16	0
Pneumonia	28	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	8	5	1	4	4	3	17
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Diphtheria	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	4	0
Erysipelas	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	2	0
Measles	114	2	2	12	10	11	36	30	9	1	1	0	0	2	0
Whooping Cough	42	1	6	4	3	9	16	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0